

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 146012
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146012

FOR DON MCHENRY FROM SIEVERTS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAPE TOWN, DAR ES SALAAM,
LONDON, PRETORIA, GENEVA FROM LUSAKA JUNE 14:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1665

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, WA, ZA

SUBJ: GRZ HOME MINISTER ANNOUNCES 200 SWAPO REFUGEES WERE NOT
SWAPO "POLITICAL DISSIDENTS", OR FREEDOM FIGHTERS

REF: LUSAKA 1526; 1619 (NOTAL; 1634

1. GRZ HOME MINISTER AARON MILNER DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT
200 NAMIBIAN REFUGEES SENT TO THE MEHEBA ANGOLAN REFUGEE
CAMP WERE SWAPO POLITICAL DISSIDENTS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH
THE PRESS JUNE 13. MILNER SAID THAT WHEN THE 200 NAMIBIANS
ENTERED ZAMBIA THEY HAD REQUESTED REFUGEE STATUS AND HE HAD
PERSONALLY GRANTED THEIR REQUEST. MILNER IS QUOTED
AS SAYING "I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT THEY ARE NOT SWAPO'S
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POLITICAL DISSIDENTS. THEY ARE NOT FREEDOM FIGHTERS
AND WE DO NOT ALLOW FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS."

2. IN JUNE 13 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF UNHCR REP CONFIRMED
THAT THE GRZ HAD TRANSPORTED 196 NAMIBIANS FROM THE
MBROMA CAMP TO MEHEBA. HE EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATION
ABOUT HOW THE NAMIBIANS WOULD FIT IN AT MBROMA BECAUSE

HE ASSUMED THAT THEY WERE MOSTLY YOUNG SINGLE MALES WHO HAD BEEN OUT OF CIRCULATION FOR A WHILE. HE NOTED HIS CONCERN ON THIS SCORE WOULD BE CLARIFIED WHEN HIS DEPUTY RETURNS FROM MEHEBA WHERE HE WILL HAVE TALKED TO THE NAMIBIANS AND HAVE DETAILS OF THE COM-POSITION OF THE GROUP. UNHCR REP. WAS STILL PUZZLED AS TO WHY SWAPO WOULD PERMIT THE TRANSFER TO MEHEBA SINCE THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS FOR THE ENFORCED DETENTION OF INHABITANTS AT THAT CAMP. THUS FAR, HIS OFFICE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN IF SWAPO ACTUALLY CONSENTED TO THE TRANSFER. HIS DEPUTY HAS HEARD SECONDHAND THAT THE GRZ MAY HAVE ASSURED SWAPO THAT THE TRANSFERRES WOULD BE KEPT GUARDED AND RESTRICTED TO THE MEHEBA FACILITY, BUT HE IS SEEKING MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SWAPO ROLE, IF ANY, IN THE TRANSFER AND SWAPO'S UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE NAMBIANS AT MEHEBA WILL BE HANDLED. CLINGERMAN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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